



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

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Como Regional Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Committee Members present: *Dan Marckel, Art Oglesby, Elizabeth Stiffler, and Kathy Korum.*
Absent: *Triesta Brown, Kim Johnson*

About a dozen community members joined us for the meeting.

Project Updates/Discussion items:

Como portion of the Grand Round project – Kathleen Anglo, Parks Design & Construction

- Kathleen provided a number of updates: summer construction schedule on Wheelock Parkway; bike trails when complete will be maintained by the City; the City will need to study the bike/ped traffic along the East side of Como Lake; the five-way intersection at Maryland will need to be studied further; additional planning and construction funding is not yet appropriated for the Como portion of the Grand Round project (possibly 2020 or later). There was lots of concern voiced by residents about the possibility of closing East Como Lake Drive to vehicle traffic including: some people who want to see the lake only come in a car, access for SPPD and other emergency vehicles, and the traffic that uses the road now will spill over into the neighborhood. Suggestions for managing bike/ped traffic included: consider the width of the new rental bikes, consider the variety of trail users (skateboard, stroller, children riding with training wheels), serious bike riders choose the street if they want to go faster, and “summer rules and rest of the year rules.” There was more support for looking at the five-way intersection than for closing the road. A question was raised as to why only one path is plowed in the winter.
- Although project updates are available on the website, the commitment is to keep the CPRAC in the communication thread as well.

Transportation improvements around the McMurray Field Complex – Bryan Murphy, Parks Design & Construction

- Bryan’s update was brief and included proposed construction timelines. The project will be bid soon. No construction will begin until after the July 4th holiday. The community requested a check-in with Nice Ride to see about more stations in Como Regional Park. The community also requested some work on circulator interest in Como Park (different than the shuttle). The City agreed to do some kind of measure with pool users, ball field users, and employees. Also requested is some follow-up with plans Metro Transit has for marketing route 83 better. D-10 is very supportive of alternative transportation options for the park. The community continues to express the need to wayfinding signs and maps to help people navigate the entire park.



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Como Dockside – community engagement process planning/status report on committee recruitment and membership – Como Dockside staff

- Jarret Oulman provided an update on the community process related to the City's contract with Como Dockside. He invited participation – looking for one more committee member as well as encouraging folks to participate if there are surveys etc. He expressed a need for Como Dockside Signage and answered questions. There was a lengthy discussion about the kiosk on the south end. Jarret indicated this was part of the property Dockside manages, that they have the keys and will be happy to help it be community focused. Perhaps a wayfinding map could be located there.

Work north of Parks Forestry Building/Restoration project on north end of Como Lake – Shannon Montante, Parks Environmental Services

- Shannon described two projects adjacent to Como Lake: invasive removals on the east shore (hill) and a restoration project on the north end. She also provided information about some removals (due to EAB) that would take place along Hamline, north of the Forestry garage. Re-planted materials will be bird and bee friendly. Shannon agreed to provide additional materials to District 10 so they could be sent out district-wide, and/or posted on the D-10 website.

Updates: Kathy Korum

1. Transportation improvements on the Como Campus – updates were provided about the circle drive in front of the Visitor's Center, continued work on the gardens and improvements for pedestrians from the Carousel to the main VC door. Work will begin after Labor Day. The improvements accomplished thus far in the parking lots as well as the realignment of the intersection near Como Town have generally been well received.
2. Historic Pedestrian Bridge project completion – folks love the bridge and are happy it's completed. They will look forward to seeing flowers planted that will be provided through a grant the Arts and Gardening team secured. The City received an engineering award related to the bridge project. The community requested that the plaque be mounted in the Streetcar Station for all to see. The City has agreed to do so.

Other Business: Community members in attendance asked about signage, wayfinding and maps. They are also interested in starting up the conversation again with MnDOT about Como Park signage on Highway 36 at Lexington. It seems Highway 36 is scheduled for construction, so this might be the right time to ask.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 14, 2016